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McKissick Says Nonviolence Has Become Dead Philosophy

Special to The New York Times

CLEVELAND, April 4—Floyd B. McKissick national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said tonight that the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. meant the end of the nonviolent philosophy.

"Dr. Martin Luther King was the last prince of nonviolence," Mr. McKissick said at a news conference at the Sheraton Cleveland Hotel. "He was a symbol of nonviolence, the epitome of nonviolence.

"Nonviolence is a dead philosophy and it was not the black people that killed it. It was the white people that killed nonviolence and white racists at that." Mr. McKissick called the assassination "a horror."

"It's a horror for us, for all Americans that the apostle of nonviolence should be gunned down on an American street," he said.

Mr. McKissick is in Cleveland to promote a CORE plan to build black-owned businesses and industries in slum areas.

But leaders of the organization from around the country are coming in to meet with him here to discuss strategy as a result of the assassination.

Mr. McKissick said he would make no predictions about what would happen in the country because of the assassination.

But he said that CORE was "preparing to issue a publication on what black people have to do to survive." He indicated that the publication would tell Negroes that they had the right to own weapons, should prepare first aid kits and not be provoked.

Mr. McKissick called President Johnson's remarks following the slaying "a good statement," but he and other CORE leaders made it clear that they were bitter with the President and Vice President Humphrey because they had not spoken out on the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders attacking white racism.

Mr. McKissick appeared

shaken. His eyes were red. While he avoided predictions of violence, he said, "Black Americans will no longer tolerate the killing of their heroes." He scored the violence in American life.

"We are a nation of violence," he said. "We teach violence."

He observed that the weekend's television screens would be filled with violence in old Western movies and war reports.

Hosea Williams Appeals

ATLANTA, April 4 (AP)—Hosea Williams, one of Dr. King's top aides who was standing beneath the balcony on which Dr. King was shot to death, called immediately for continued nonviolence.

"Let's not burn America down," he said.

Mr. Williams, an executive in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, telephoned his plea to The Atlanta Constitution from Memphis, where Dr. King died.

"We must—we must—maintain and advocate and promote the philosophy of nonviolence," he said.

Mr. Williams, considered one of the most militant of Dr. King's aides, told The Constitution, "We—those of us with him during his last moments on this earth—are concerned that this country might go into a turmoil that would cause great bloodshed."

He said that Dr. King had spent part of his last discussion in the motel room with his lieutenants reiterating the validity of nonviolence.

Philosophy Recalled

CINCINNATI, April 4 (UPI)—The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who with Dr. King was an early organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said tonight that of Dr. King's philosophies was that "not one hair on the head of one white man shall be harmed by us."

"We dedicated ourselves and hoped Americans would accept the nonviolence as a way of life," Mr. Shuttlesworth said.